

Caremark (AdvancePCS) has provided the following background information and guidance regarding the recent decision to withdraw Vioxx from the market

Background:

The Food and Drug Administration acknowledged September 30, 2004 the voluntary withdrawal from the market of Vioxx (chemical name rofecoxib), a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicine (NSAID) manufactured by Merck & Co. FDA also issued a Public Health Advisory to inform patients of this action and to advise them to consult with a doctor about alternative medicines. Merck has advised both retail and mail service pharmacies to discontinue dispensing this product.

Is Vioxx on the PDL?

Yes. It is being removed from the website and will not appear on future PDL's.

Are there alternatives for Vioxx on the PDL?

Yes. There are nonspecific nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory in both brand and generic form. There are also two Cox-2 anti-inflammatory medicines, Celebrex[®] and Bextra[®] that have an equivalent co insurance level.

What is Caremark (AdvancePCS) doing with new prescriptions that are received?

Upon receipt of your prescription (new or refill) contact will be made with your doctor to determine if there is an alternate treatment available for you. If appropriate a new prescription will be obtained at that time.

What can a plan participant do with a dispensed Vioxx prescription if their healthcare provider advises them to discontinue use?

Merck & Co. has advised Caremark that they will be accepting returned product and providing reimbursement for shipping costs associated with the product return and the co-payment incurred to plan participants. For further information or to obtain the required return forms, the plan participant should access either www.Merck.com or www.vioxx.com. They may also contact Merck toll-free at: 1-888-368-4699.

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